

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 128143
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY PM:PCLAPP
APPROVED BY PM - MR. GELB
NEA - MR. STERNBERG
S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NEA, PM, S, P AND T ONLY
-----031744Z 055985 /40
O 031544Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 128143

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MARR, IS

SUBJECT: CIECHANOVER INQUIRY ABOUT PENDING ISRAELI
WEAPONS ORDERS

SUMMARY: CIECHANOVER PAID A CALL ON LES GELB JUNE 2 TO
INQUIRE ABOUT THE STATUS OF PENDING GOI ARMS REQUESTS.
HE SAID THERE WAS INCREASING PRESSURE ON HIM FROM
JERUSALEM ABOUT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE TO
APPROVE ANY MAJOR ISRAELI WEAPONS REQUEST" SINCE JANUARY.
REFERRING TO (1) A LIST OF THREE PRIORITY ITEMS, (2) THE
PERES LIST PRESENTED TO DOD IN DECEMBER 1976, AND (3) A
LIST OF MUNITIONS REQUESTS, HE ASKED IF STATE COULD GIVE
HIM SOME INDICATION OF WHEN DECISIONS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.
GELB ASSURED HIM THAT DELAYS IN PROCESSING THESE REQUESTS
WERE IN NO WAY RELATED TO POLITICAL QUESTIONS OR MIDDLE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 128143

EAST NEGOTIATIONS. HE REMINDED CIECHANOVER THAT
STATE HAS BEEN EXPEDITING LARGE NUMBERS OF ISRAELI REQUESTS
COMING THROUGH MUNITIONS CONTROL AND THE FMS PROCEDURE.
BOTH AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DISCUSSION OF THIS
MEETING WITH THE PRESS.

1. CIECHANOVER, HEAD OF THE ISRAELI SUPPLY MISSION IN

NEW YORK VISITED PM DIRECTOR GELB ON AFTERNOON JUNE 2ND TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF OUTSTANDING ISRAELI WEAPONS REQUESTS AND TO MAKE THE CASE FOR EARLY DECISIONS BY THE USG. HE BEGAN BY EXPLAINING THAT CONCERN WAS MOUNTING IN ISRAEL BECAUSE NO MAJOR DEFENSE ITEMS REQUESTED BY ISRAEL HAD BEEN APPROVED SINCE JANUARY. FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, HE SAID, THIS DELAY HAD BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S GENERAL ARMS TRANSFER POLICY REVIEW. NOW THAT THE NEW POLICY -- WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ISRAEL -- HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED, WHY HAS THERE BEEN NO NEWS ABOUT THE LONG LIST OF PENDING ISRAELI CASES?

2. CIENCHAOVER THEN TURNED TO SPECIFIC LISTS OF ITEMS PENDING, BEGINNING WITH A LIST OF TOP PRIORITIES THAT HE HAD DEVELOPED IN CONFERENCE WITH JERUSALEM. THE THREE ITEMS ON THIS LIST WERE F-16 CO-PRODUCTION, HYDROFOILS, AND FINANCING FOR THE CHARIOT TANK. ON HYDROFOILS, HE SAID THAT THE GOI HAS DISCUSSED WITH GRUMMAN THE DETAILS OF BUYING ONE AND BUILDING ANOTHER IN ISRAEL. ALL THAT IS LACKING IS THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE USG. THE DECISION ON THIS ITEM IS URGENT TO ISRAEL BECAUSE THE SHIPYARDS ARE IDLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT IF THE USG WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE MORE SOPHISTICATED COMPONENTS OF THE HYDROFOIL, THESE MIGHT BE DIVIDED OUT OF THE PACKAGE. ON THE CHARIOT TANK DEAL, CIECHAROVER WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD STATED IN A MEETING WITH JEWISH LEADERS THAT HE HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH THE PROPOSAL. HE ASKED WHY THIS APPROVAL HAD NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED TO ISRAEL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 128143

3. THE SECOND LIST CIECHANOVER PRESENTED WAS THE PERES LIST OF DECEMBER 1976, WHICH IS STILL UNDER REVIEW IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. HE NAMED THE ITEMS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY:

15 TANK DOZERS
48 M-109 SP GUNS
200 TOW LAUNCHERS
3 KC-135 TANKERS
18 AH-1S ASSAULT HELICOPTERS
75 IR THERMAL IMAGING SYSTEMS (FLIR)
FOR AIRCRAFT
FLIRS FOR TANKS, APCS, AND TOW LAUNCHERS
LONG-RANGE SENSORS
250 CBU-72 BOMBS
5000 CBU-71 BOMBS

800 MAVERICK AGM

1350 AIM-9L
21 UNDERWATER DECOYS FOR SUBMARINES
5000 MARK 404 PROXIMITY FUZES FOR 76MM GUNS
4 SDV-7 (SWIMMER DELIVERY VEHICLES)

GELB REMINDED HIM THAT A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST
SUPPLYING THE CBU-72.

4. FINALLY, CIECHANOVER PRESENTED A COPY OF A LIST OF
MUNITIONS THAT HE HAD ALREADY GIVEN THE DOD. HE POINTED
OUT THREE URGENT ARTILLERY AMMUNITION REQUESTS FOR
20,000 WP-110 E2 ROUNDS, 20,000 M-585-A2 (ILLUMINATION)
ROUNDS, AND 10,000 M-116-E2 (SMOKE) ROUNDS.

5. CIECHANOVER ALSO HAD ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF CERTAIN USG RESPONSES ON THREE
ISRAELI COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUESTS. TWO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 128143

EXPORT LICENSES FOR COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS HAD RETURNED
WITH STIPULATIONS THAT NO HARDWARE DESIGN OR COMPUTER
INFORMATION COULD BE PROVIDED WITH THE SYSTEMS. IT WOULD
BE DIFFICULT FOR ISRAELI OPERATORS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SYSTEMS, CIECHANOVER STATED, UNLESS
THEY HAD THE LOGIC OF THE SYSTEMS. SIMILARLY, A REQUEST
FOR DEPOT LEVEL TRAINING FOR THE F-15 HAD RETURNED WITH
A QUERY ABOUT THE EXACT NATURE OF THE TRAINING DESIRED.
HE WAS PUZZLED ABOUT THIS CONCERN BECAUSE PAST ISRAELI
REQUESTS FOR DEPOT LEVEL TRAINING HAVE ALL BEEN APPROVED
WITHOUT QUESTION.

6. GELB BEGAN HIS REPLY TO CIECHANOVER BY STRESSING
THAT ANY DELAYS IN PROCESSING ISRAELI WEAPONS REQUESTS
ARE NOT THE RESULT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT US-ISRAELI
RELATIONS OR ATTEMPTS TO TIE ARMS SUPPLIES TO MIDDLE EAST
NEGOTIATIONS. THIS ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID, HAS TRIED
TO MAKE CLEAR THAT OUR INTEREST IN ISRAEL'S
SECURITY IS NOT DEPENDENT ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

7. GELB EXPLAINED THAT SOME OF THE DELAYS COULD BE
ACCOUNTED FOR BY GENERAL POLICY REVIEW. FOR EXAMPLE,
THOSE ITEMS INVOLVING CO-PRODUCTION WERE BEING REVIEWED
IN LIGHT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW POLICY. THE
TECHNICAL COMPLEXITY OF THESE ITEMS HAS REQUIRED A LONG
DELIBERATIVE PROCESS AND THEY HAVE NOT YET GONE TO
RESPONSIBLE LEVELS FOR DECISION.

8. IN GENERAL, GELB STATED, THE MACHINERY OF THE
NEW ADMINISTRATION FOR PROCESSING MILITARY SALES HAS
BEEN NECESSARILY SLOWED BY THE PRM. THE ONLY MAJOR

CASES WE HAVE SENT UP FOR CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION ARE THOSE PENDING FROM THE LAST ADMINISTRATION. WE ARE JUST BEGINNING TO PROCESS NEW CASES. ON A NUMBER OF ITEMS LISTED BY CIECHANOVER WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE RELATIVELY EARLY DECISIONS. WHEN PRESSED BY CIECHANOVER

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 128143

FOR A DATE BY WHICH SUCH DECISIONS COULD BE EXPECTED, GELB AVOIDED A SPECIFIC ANSWER.

9. GELB ALSO REMINDED CIECHANOVER THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL HAS BEEN PROCESSING ISRAELI LICENSE REQUESTS MORE RAPIDLY AND IN LARGER NUMBERS DURING THE PAST FOUR MONTHS THAN EVER BEFORE. FURTHERMORE, SEVERAL ISRAELI CASES PER DAY ARE APPROVED ROUTINELY UNDER FMS PROCEDURES.

10. IN PARTING, CIECHANOVER ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING HE COULD SAY ABOUT THIS MEETING TO THE PRESS, ANTICIPATING THAT THERE WOULD BE QUESTIONS BECAUSE THE FACT OF THE MEETING WAS ALREADY PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. GELB REPLIED THAT PRESS REPORTS ON THE MEETING WOULD BE GENERALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO FRANK WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS ON THESE MATTERS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT PRESS REPORTING ON PREVIOUS MEETINGS HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY MISLEADING AND WAS CREATING MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS. CIECHANOVER AGREED TO SAY NOTHING.

VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE128143
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PCLAPP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770198-0968
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770692/aaaadcqs.tel
Line Count: 202
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 24b04685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2284521
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIECHANOVER INQUIRY ABOUT PENDING ISRAELI WEAPONS ORDERS SUMMARY: CIECHANOVER PAID A CALL ON LES GELB
JUNE
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MARR, IS
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/24b04685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009